



# FEMA

**Disclaimer:** The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to [www.weather.gov/srh](http://www.weather.gov/srh) and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

## FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

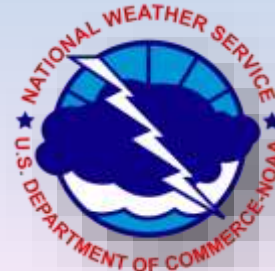
Monday, March 26, 2018  
Issued: 0800 CT

***Day 1 Weather Threats: Elevated/Critical Fire Weather Conditions across NM/South Plains/TX&OK Panhandles/Guadalupe Mountains.***

***Day 1 Weather Threats: Slight Risk area for severe storms- OK/TX.***

***Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS Rivers.***

National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Felecia Bowser  
817-978-1100 x 147

# Key Points



## Today

- **Elevated/Critical Fire Weather conditions across NM/South Plains into the TX/OK Panhandles and Guadalupe Mountains – Red Flag Warnings are in effect.**
- **Slight Risk of Severe thunderstorms across N Cntrl TX and SW OK – hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes the main threats.**

## Tuesday through Thursday

- **Severe thunderstorms from S Cntrl TX into SW AR/NW LA TUESDAY AND from S Cntrl TX into SE OK/SW AR/NW LA WEDNESDAY – hail and damaging winds the main threats.**
- **Heavy rainfall/flash flooding possible across NE TX, SE OK and AR.**
- **Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions across SE NM to across the Guadalupe Mountains.**

## Friday

- **No Significant Weather Impacts expected.**

## River Flood Status

- **The Atchafalaya River continues a flat crest at Morgan City, LA and remains in moderate flood stage.**
- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, the gauge at Reserve, LA will continue to show minor flooding levels until the spillway is closed. This location should start to recede in the next week.**
- **The long range weather models continue to show another round of heavy rain later this week in the Mississippi, Tennessee, & Ohio Valleys. Additional rises can be expected on portions of the Lower Ohio and middle Mississippi Rivers and elevated water levels will remain on the Lower Mississippi River through April.**

# FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 26, 2018 - Mar 30, 2018

DAY / THREAT	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Strong/Severe Storms	N Cntrl TX/SW OK	S Cntrl TX into SW AR/NW LA	from S Cntrl TX into SE OK/SW AR/NW LA		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding		NE TX/SE OK SW AR/NW LA	E TX/S AR LA	E TX/SE AR LA	
Fire Weather	NM/South Plains/TX&OK Panhandles/Guadalupe Mtns.	SE NM/Guadalupe Mts.			
Winter					
River Flooding	LA				
	LA/E AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.*

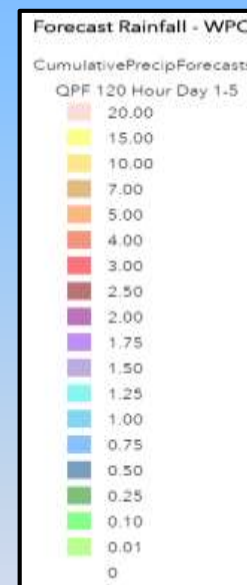
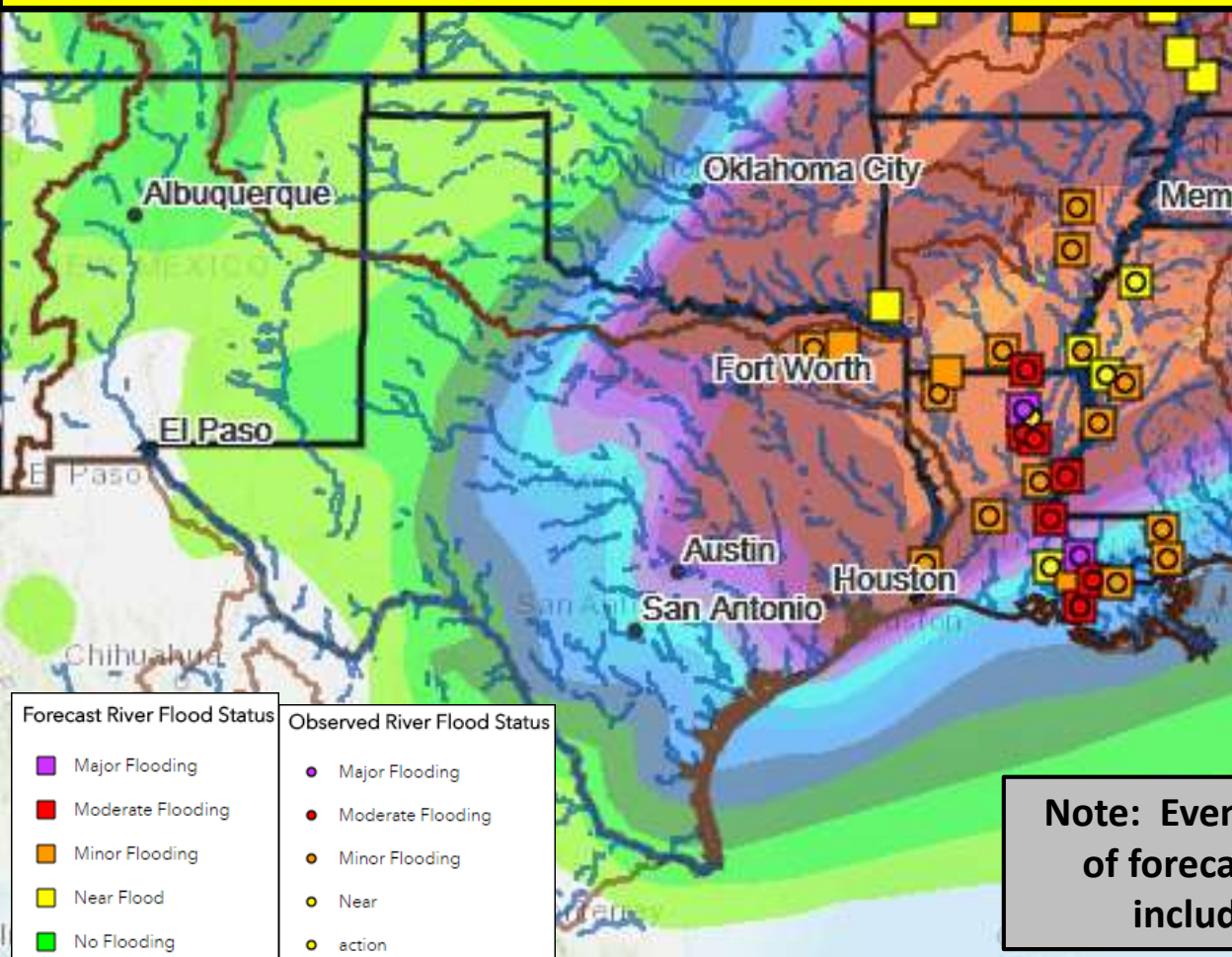


# 5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

**Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita and Mississippi Rivers in LA:**

- **The Atchafalaya River remains in moderate flood stage at Morgan City, LA.**
- **Due to the operations of the Bonnet Carre spillway the stage at Reserve, LA will continue to fluctuate around minor flood stage until the spillways is closed.**

**Minor flooding continues in LA and E AR.**



**Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.**

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



# Mississippi River Flood Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 23, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

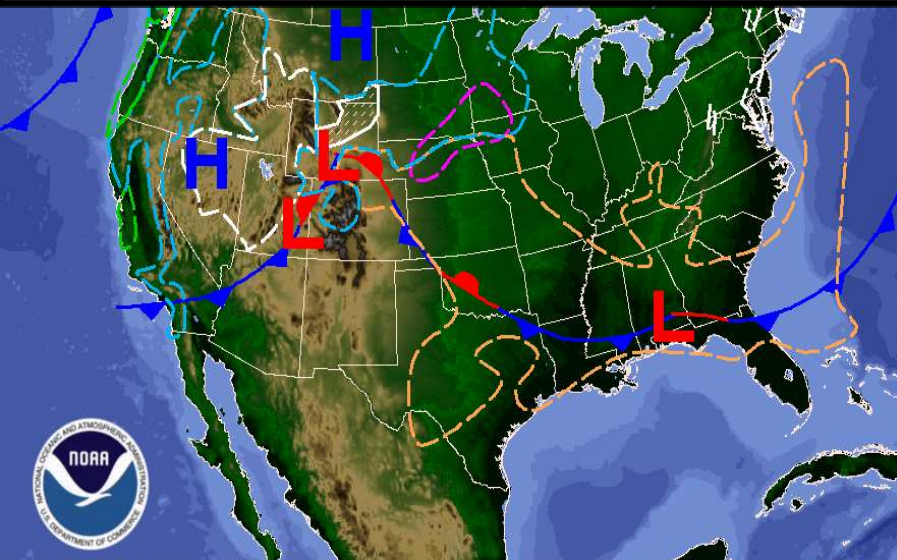
f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation

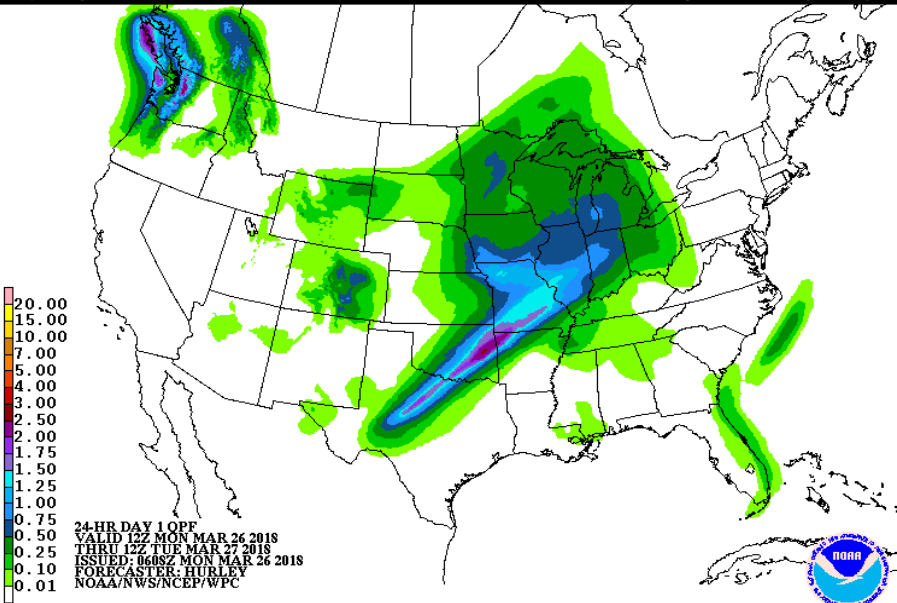
# Today's Weather



## Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 25, 2018, issued 4:50 PM EDT  
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
 Prepared by Roth with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
 Rain and T'Storms  
 Rain and Snow  
 Snow  
 Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
 Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
 Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
 Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24 HR DAY 1 OPOP  
 VALID 12Z MON MAR 26 2018  
 THRU 12Z TUE MAR 27 2018  
 ISSUED: 0608Z MON MAR 26 2018  
 FORECASTER: HURLEY  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC



**Elevated/Critical Fire Weather conditions NM, South Plains, TX&OK Panhandles and Guadalupe Mountains.**

**Slight Risk Area for Severe Storms across OK & TX and Slight Risk for Excessive Rainfall across NE TX, SE OK, AR and NW LA. Hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes main threats.**

**Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS Rivers.**

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 8

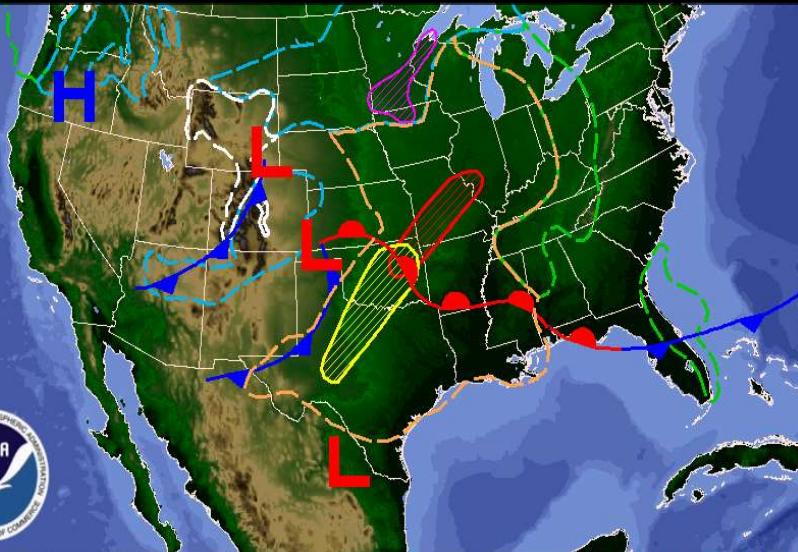
## Severe Weather Outlook Monday, March 26, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 25 2018 11:51 PM CDT  
 Valid Until: Mar 27 2018 07:00 AM CDT



5 High  
 4 Moderate  
 3 Enhanced  
 2 Slight  
 1 Marginal  
 Thunder

# Tomorrow's Weather



**Slight risk area for severe thunderstorms from S Cntrl TX into SW AR, SE OK and NW LA. Hail and damaging winds are the main threats.**

**Heavy Rain/Flash Flooding in NE TX/SE OK extending into SW AR/NW LA.**

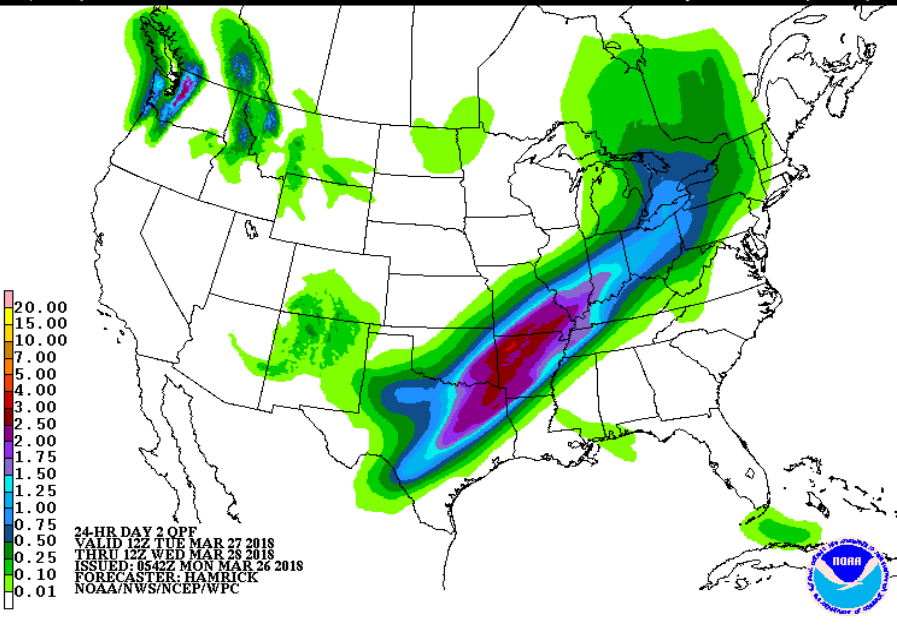
**Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.**



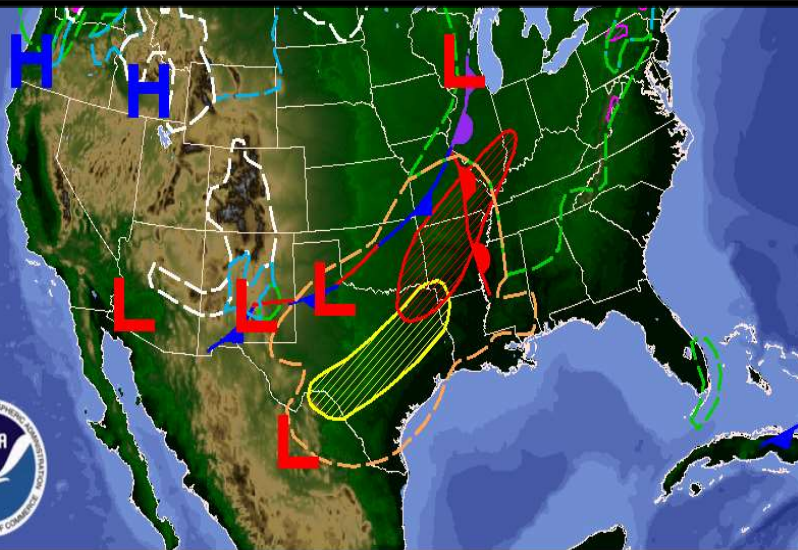
## Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 26, 2018, issued 5:18 AM EDT Sun, Mar 25, 2018  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Gerhard with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



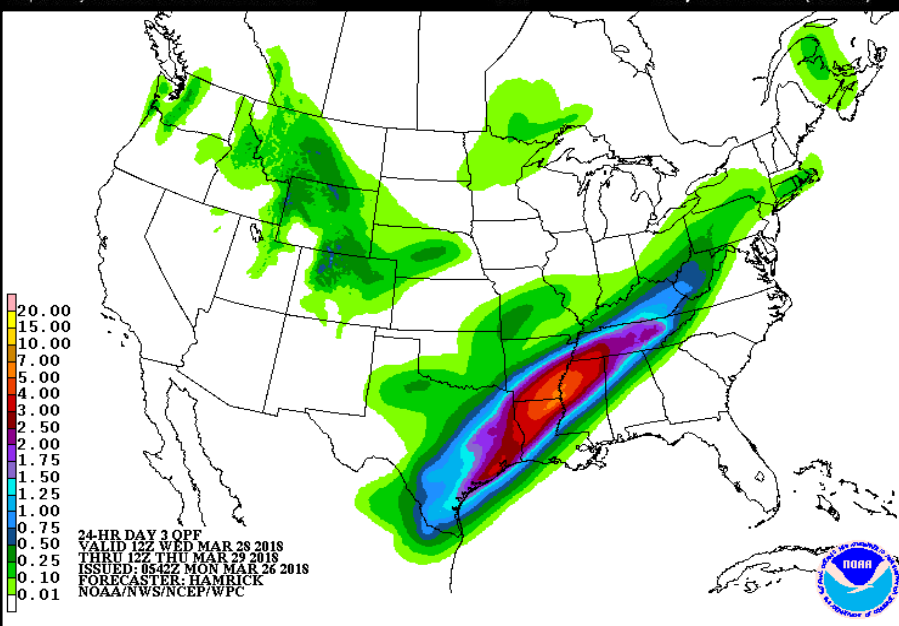
# Wednesday's Weather



## Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 27, 2018, issued 5:06 AM EDT Sun, Mar 25, 2018  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Otto with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



**Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms possible across S Cntrl TX to across SE OK and NW LA. Hail and damaging winds the main threats.**

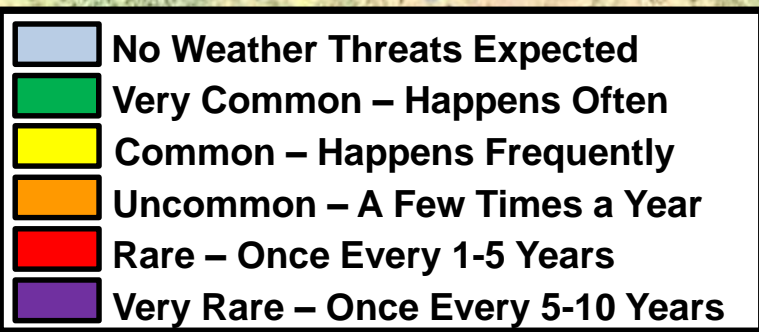
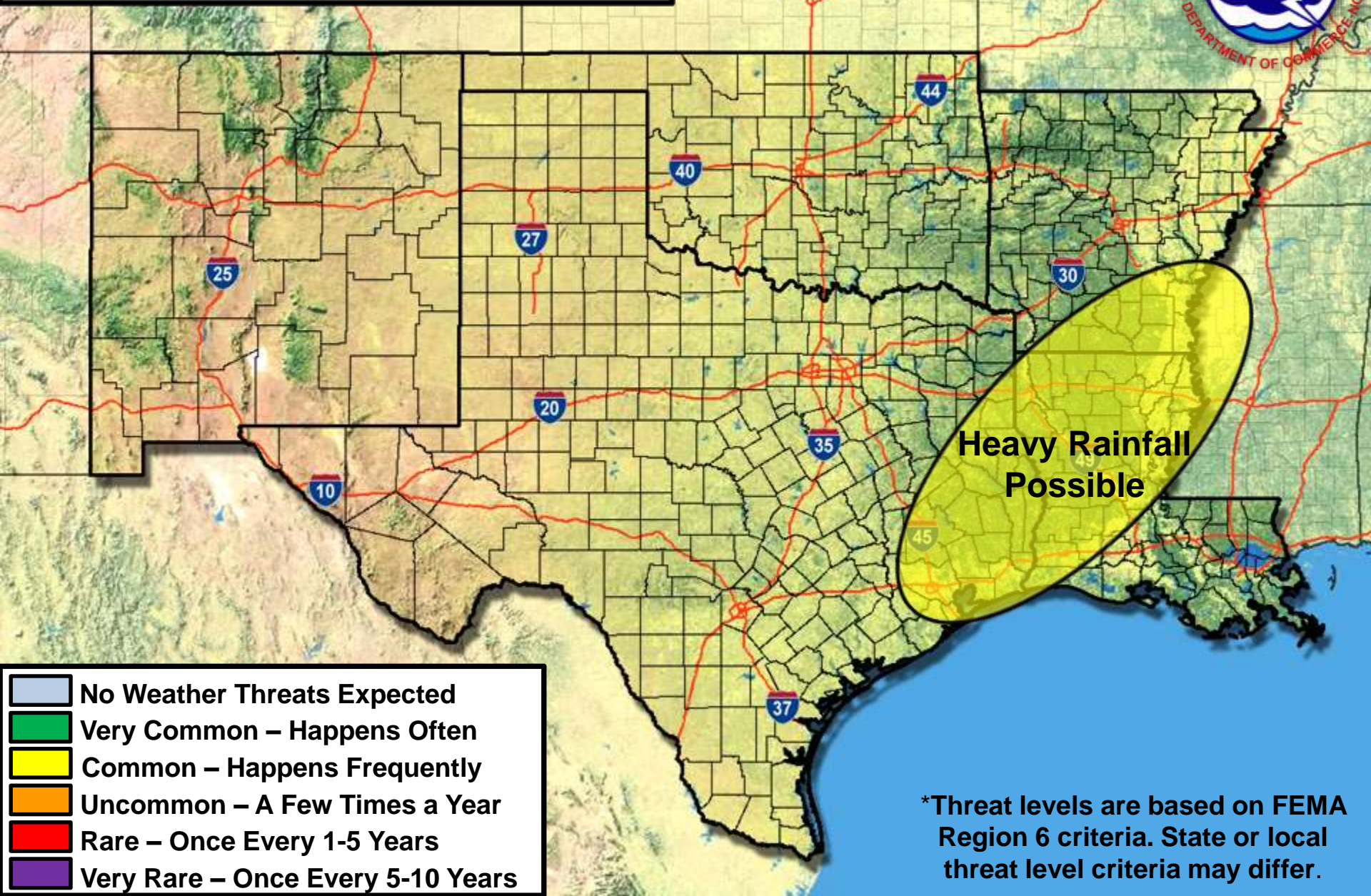
**Heavy Rain & Flash Flooding in SE TX/SW AR/NW LA**

**Moderate flooding continues on the Ouachita River and the MS River.**



# Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

## *Thursday- Friday*

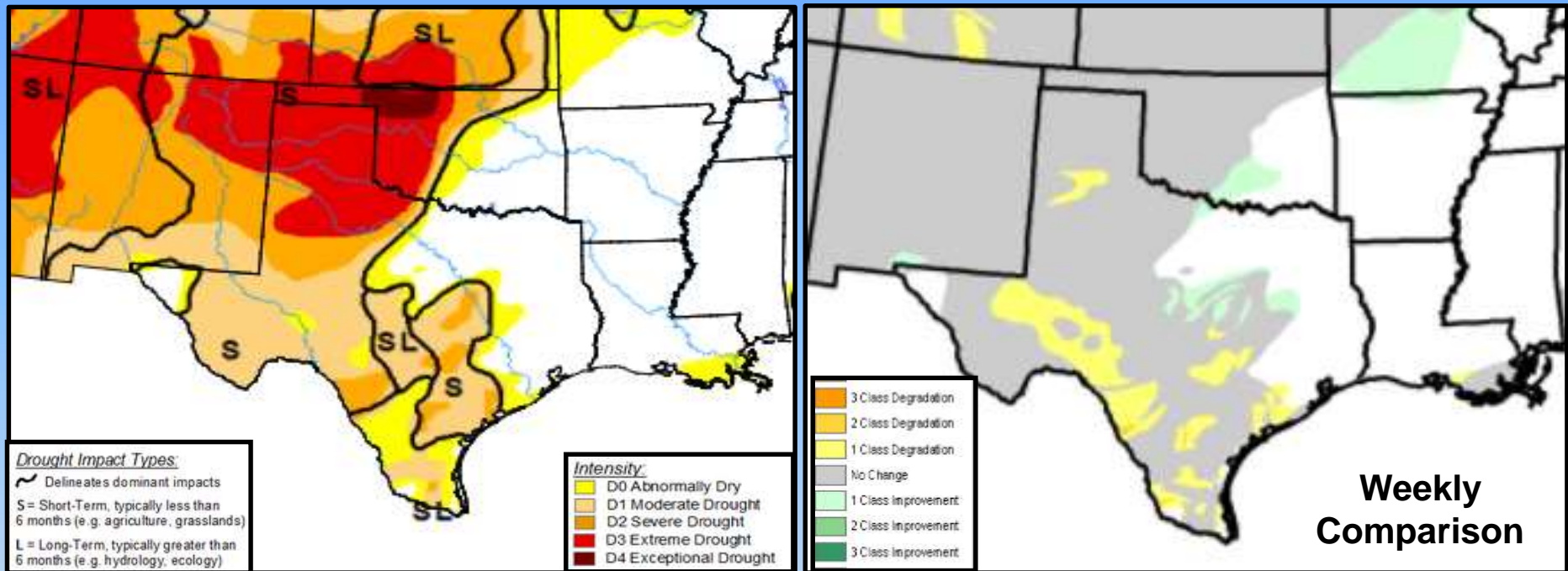


\*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



# Drought Monitor Released March 22, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 20, 2018



## Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	25.31%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.93%	1.21%	3.17%
Texas	15.08%	14.19%	0.25%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.60%	25.50%	0.00%	0.00%

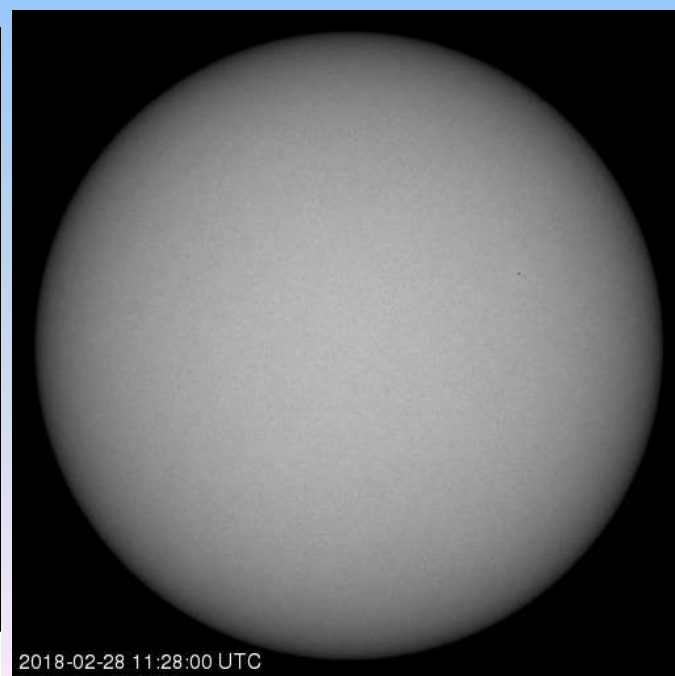
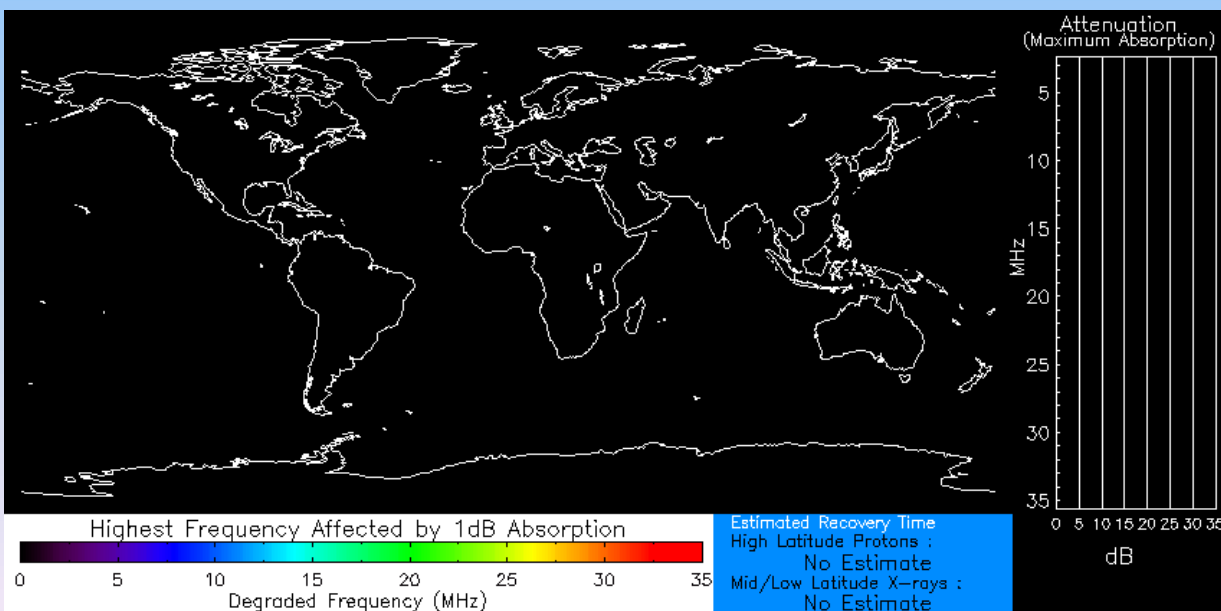
# Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>Geomagnetic Storms</b>	<b>Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)</b>	<b>Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)</b>	<b>Quiet (Max Kp = 2)</b>
<b>Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Radio Blackout (R1-R2)</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Radio Blackout (R3-R5)</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>



2018-02-28 11:28:00 UTC

Normal X-ray Background  
Product Valid At : 2018-03-26 10:42 UTC

Normal Proton Background  
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



**National Weather Service**  
**Southern Region Headquarters**  
**Regional Operations Center**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

Phone: (682) 703-3747 **\*New Direct Number**  
E-mail: [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)  
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

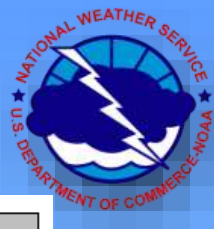
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The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov).



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<b>Very Common</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees</li> <li>Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX</li> </ul>
Yellow	<b>Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible</li> <li>Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail</li> </ul>
Orange	<b>Uncommon – A Few Times a Year</b> Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely</li> <li>Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail</li> <li>Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected</li> </ul>
Red	<b>Rare – Once every 1-5 Years</b> Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days</li> <li>Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail</li> <li>Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue</li> </ul>
Purple	<b>Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years</b> Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow</li> <li>Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms</li> </ul>